

NSC BRIEFING

6 August 1957

BACKGROUND: OKINAWAN MAYORAL ELECTION

- I. Supporters of pro-Communist mayor Kamejiro Senaga of Naha, the capital city of Okinawa, have won 12 seats in the 30-member city assembly in the election held on 4 August. Of the remaining 18 seats, the anti-Senaga group obtained 17 and a conservative independent one seat. This could give the pro-Senaga forces sufficient seats to block any further moves to oust the mayor by means of a no-confidence vote.
- II. After a vote of no-confidence in June, Senaga dissolved the assembly and called for an election. A second vote of no-confidence by the new assembly would then be required to force the mayor to resign. For this vote, however, two-thirds of the 30-member assembly must be present although only a simple majority of those present is required to carry a vote against the mayor. With 12 seats under their control, the pro-Senaga group may attempt to prevent a no-confidence vote by absenting themselves from the assembly whenever such a vote is proposed.
- III. Two of the alleged pro-Senaga group, however, are members of the Socialist Masses Party whose leaders have said they would not boycott the assembly, presumably in any call for a no-confidence vote. If this holds true, the anti-Senaga forces can obtain the necessary quorum to defeat Senaga. His position might also be weakened by the fact that continued proposals of no-confidence motions with ensuing boycott of the assembly could lead to an impasse in the transaction of necessary city business that would be intolerable. Such a situation in turn might persuade the

- IV. Among the possible reasons for the victory of Senaga's supporters was factionalism among conservatives. They further diluted their strength by running an excessive number of candidates. The leftist elements, led by Senaga, conducted a vigorous campaign and identified themselves as champions of Okinawan grievances against the United States.
- V. Four alternatives remain for the ouster of Senaga: (1) a merger of nearby Mawashi City with Naha, which would require a new mayoral election; (2) amendment of the municipal election law by the Okinawan legislature to disqualify ex-convicts from office (Senaga has been convicted of harboring a criminal); (3) enactment of legislation barring Communists from holding office; and (4) application of the recall system through public petition.

Reference General Cabell's question on how many supporters did Okinawan mayor Senaga have in last assembly: the answer is 6.

However at the vote of no confidence on 17 June, 3 of these 6 voted against him and 3 abstained.